

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

BURROWS JB

FOSS SF

CHILCOTT G

IMAN JR

STOLTZ R

Members Present.....Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner J.R. Iman and Commissioner Ron Stoltz

Date.....June 18, 2013

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 9:00 a.m. to make a decision on payment for dog intake at the Bitterroot Humane Association during FY 2013. Present were Linda Turner, Roni Leonard and Sue McCormick, members of the Humane Association and President Kathy Good. Kathy presented a letter as well as the number of intake dogs from July 1st through April 30th. (See attached). Discussion included cost to house the animals, specifically the number of dogs on intake per month, the services provided which includes medical. Kathy stated the Humane Association enables the Commissioners to uphold the Montana Statutes - i.e., providing a place to house dogs running at large, nuisance, abuse, harassing live stock etc. The cost is approximately \$300,000 per year to keep the shelter open. Most of the work is done by volunteers.

Commissioner Iman addressed the number of dogs sent to the shelter by law enforcement and the fact that private kenneling cost less per day. He also noted that anything held over 10 days is shelter policy, which adds to the cost and the county should not pay for anything over 10 days. Commissioner Stoltz suggested they look at this regarding budget, verify with the Sheriff's Office the number of dogs taken to the shelter and what amount the citizens pay the shelter when they pick up the dogs. He stated he verified 53 dogs in 10 months were taken to the shelter by the Sheriff's Office but the shelter has 63 dogs for a twelve month time period. He is in favor of putting out an Request for Proposal for boarding.

Kathy suggested they look to what euthanasia will cost after 10 days. She asked if private vendors would pay for this or bring them the animals. Another issue is the shelter is housing pets. When the Sheriff's staff brings in a stray it affects the health of their boarding pets, their business for impounds, some angry citizens they have to deal with, citizens break in to the shelter in order to retrieve their dogs. She reminded the Commissioners the intake rate does not show how many days the dog is housed at the shelter, sometimes it is anywhere between 1 - 39 days. They have a 69% adoption rate which is one of highest in the nation.

Commissioner Iman noted 63 dogs for 10 day stays at \$15.00 per day is \$9,400. For an average he is willing to give \$10,000 to the shelter.

Commissioner Iman made a motion based on facts and figures discussed today, the County give \$10,000 to the shelter (for FY2012). Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Chilcott hopes to develop a better formula in order to justify the costs of the county's requirements by statute. He appreciates what the shelter does, and Kathy had some good comments on housing the unhealthy dogs etc. for those who might respond to our RFP (proposal) process. **All voted "aye". (3-0)** Commissioner Foss was not present for this meeting.

► At 10:05 a.m. the Board addressed the following administrative issues: (Commissioner Foss was now present).

- **RYO Contract for Juvenile Detention: Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to continue this contract for another year at the same rates. Commissioner Iman seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)**
- **County Policy for Incident Reporting: Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to adopt this policy. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)**
- **Choice Aviation lease #524: Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to approve. Commissioner Iman seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)**
- **Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Chilcott discussed his upcoming JPIA meeting in Helena. Commissioner Foss gave an update on CSKT water compact issues. Commissioner Iman addressed hosting a meeting with MDOT. Commissioner Stoltz addressed the cameras at road shop.**

► The Board met 10:25 a.m. with Human Resource Director Robert Jenni for an update. Robert will be attending a meeting in Lewistown for the MACo Health Insurance/Affordable Health Care Act update the middle of July. Robert also presented Employee Action Forms for Commissioner signature.

► The Board met at 10:35 a.m. with Treasurer Marie Keeton for an update. Marie presented the Tax collection summary for year 2012. (See attached). The percentage collected will probably increase as she is sending out delinquent notices. Marie addressed a request by Advanced Earthworks 2009 - 2012 personal tax penalties and interest to be forgiven. Principal is \$47,000 with Penalties & Interest totaling \$13, 14,000. The last time they paid any taxes was 2008, as they have had no collections for 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013 and the new tax bills are coming out now. The company sold the equipment in 2012 so there is no equipment to lien against. Civil Counsel has indicated the county could still lien against the current owner. Right now Advanced Earthworks just wants to just pay the principal - but their attorney does not think they have the cash to pay for this. Marie stated if they signed off on a payment plan the penalties and interest would stop. Discussion included if the business is incorporated, and if the company went into bankruptcy the Judge has control. It was agreed to schedule a meeting with Civil Attorney and Advanced Earthworks to further discuss the issue.

Marie also brought forth another private company for delinquencies in personal property taxes in 2008. That company now has another name and are in business.. Commissioner Stoltz asked if the company still has the same Federal ID number. Marie indicated she will do more research on this.

► Commissioner Chilcott attended an All Valley Fire Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Since 1975, the Bitter Root Humane Association has served Ravalli County's animals in need by providing food, shelter, medical care, and the hope for adoption. Until last year, our County government had recognized the essential contributions of the BRHA by contributing significant financial support in their annual budget. In fiscal years 2006 through 2011, the BRHA received \$30,000 annually to support the continued operation of the animal shelter. Funds were used to offset staff salaries, general operating costs, and improvements that benefit the animals under our care. In fiscal year 2011/2012, the BRHA received \$20,000 in County funds. Although \$20,000 was designated for animal care in the 2012/2013 fiscal year budget, the County has yet to forward any portion of these funds. It should also be noted that the audit of BRHA's 2010 financials requested by our Commissioners was completed and approved.

We realize that financial shortfalls resulting from a poor economy, public concerns relating to operations at the shelter, and interest in a privately owned kennel network for officer impounds may have affected the decision to withhold or deny funding to the BRHA. But we listened to those concerns and made changes that have regained the confidence of our community. We invite you to our Open House this Saturday to judge that for yourselves. Also, it appears that the private kennel network was not realized, leaving the BRHA as the only option for stray, abused, or abandoned pets. The economy may not have improved very much, but our financial needs remain the same.

We hope you will demonstrate Ravalli County's support of the BRHA by funding the full \$20,000 that has been budgeted. This will help defray at least the cost of accepting dogs impounded by the County Sheriff's Department, which in fiscal year 2012/2013 amounted to 63 dogs. On a cost basis using 2012 figures as an example, it cost the BRHA an average of \$279.36 to accept an animal into the shelter (BRHA's fiscal year is the calendar year). That's based on the 2012 actual annual expense of \$307,294 to run the shelter divided by the 1100 animals we took in from all sources. These animals were housed, cared for, and given essential medical attention until they were adopted. We also ensured that all animals leaving the shelter were spayed or neutered and that every owner of an unvaccinated dog paid for a rabies vaccine. Since it costs more to maintain dogs than cats, \$279.36 is probably an underestimate of our dog care costs. The new dog ordinance requires that officer impounds must be held up to 10 days prior to adoption, while our policy is 4 days. This could double our cost to accept dogs turned in by Sheriff's deputies, whether they're strays or impounds for rabies quarantine. And some dogs stay even longer; one RCSO impound resided here for 39 days last year.

We also ask you to consider what recourse the BRHA will have if County funding is not received. We could refuse to accept strays and impounds from the Sheriff's office (27 in the first four months of 2013), but that would just leave more dogs to harass livestock, get hit by cars, and start a population explosion. Or we could pass on our uncovered costs to the public by raising adoption fees, which could result in fewer adoptions and more dogs being euthanized. We hope you agree that neither of these outcomes is in the best interest of the community.

Except for a few paid shelter staff members, our organization is run by volunteers. Board members spend a substantial amount of time trying to raise money to keep our shelter going. Our estimated

budget expenditure for 2013 is \$310,000 and we have to rely on grants, fundraisers, and donations to make up the bulk of our revenues. Each of these sources is unpredictable at best. Fulfillment of the \$20,000 commitment from you, our County government, is needed to provide some financial security to the only animal shelter this side of Missoula, a resource our County cannot afford to lose.

Glenda Wiles

From: Glenda Wiles
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 3:05 PM
To: Jeff Burrows; Suzy Foss; Greg Chilcott; J.R. Iman; Ron Stoltz
Cc: Glenda Wiles
Subject: FW: BRHA animal intake

One of the Commissioners was going to talk to Chris Hoffman and get their numbers, has that been done? I told Kathy that as soon as we got the S.O. numbers you guys would address it then decide how the BRHA could come in and seek monies for those intake numbers for FY 2013.

From: Kathy Good [<mailto:kvmg1151@montana.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 2:22 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: BRHA animal intake

Hello Glenda,

Following are the intake number of dogs to BRHA from the Ravalli County Sheriff's office from July 1, 2012 (which I believe is the beginning of the county's fiscal year), through April 30, 2013.

July 2012	5
August 2012	4
September 2012	4
October 2012	9
November 2012	0
December 2012	4
January 2013	5
February 2013	6
March 2013	0
<u>April 2013</u>	<u>16</u>
10 month TOTAL	53

Averaging 53 animals over 10 months is 5.3 multiplied by 12 for an annual estimated RCSO intake is 63.

Please let me know what the next step is. Thanks, Kathy

Type	Tax Date	Amount Billed	Amount Paid	Uncollected	% Collected
1-REAL					
	11/30/12	20,279,751.20	19,929,346.84	350,404.36	98.27
	01/15/13	6,757.30	6,757.30	0.00	100.00
	01/31/13	1,658.47	1,658.47	0.00	100.00
	05/31/13	20,225,199.17	18,605,957.09	1,619,242.08	91.99
	Total for Type	40,513,366.14	38,543,719.70	1,969,646.44	
	Grand Total	40,513,366.14	38,543,719.70	1,969,646.44	

Mane
Benton's
attachment